



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grain Summary  
September 1 Grain Stocks  
Ag Prices Received  
Hogs & Pigs

### September 2005 Small Grain Summary

**All wheat production**, at 189.7 million bushels, is up 10 percent from the 2004 crop of 173.2 million bushels. Montana's 2005 **winter wheat** production was 92.3 million bushels, 38 percent higher than last year's production of 66.8 million bushels. This is the fourth largest crop on record and the highest since 1993 when 102.9 million bushels were produced. Producers seeded 2.10 million acres, 11 percent higher than the 2004 acreage. Producers harvested 2.05 million acres, up 420,000 acres from last year's acreage of 1.63 million acres. The 2005 average yield, at 45.0 bushels per acre, is 4 bushels higher than last year and unchanged from the previous forecast. Yield set a new record high, surpassing the previous high by 3 bushels per acre. Favorable fall planting conditions, mild spring conditions, and above normal spring rainfall contributed to the record yield.

**Spring wheat** production in Montana was 81.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2004 because fewer acres were seeded and harvested in 2005. The final seeded acreage was 2.6 million acres, down 400,000 acres from last year's acreage of 3.0 million acres. Producers harvested 2.6 million acres, down 300,000 acres from the previous year's acreage of 2.9 million acres.

Yields averaged 32.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the August forecast, but up 1 bushel from the previous year. While the above normal rainfall this spring improved yield potential, the above normal temperatures and lack of rainfall during the summer months hurt yields. Spring wheat harvest was virtually complete by the week ending September 25.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 570,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Producers harvested 565,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2004. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels per acre from last year, and down 2 bushel from the previous forecast. Total production for 2005 was estimated at 15.8 million bushels,

down 12 percent from last year. For the week ending September 25, durum wheat harvest was 96 percent complete compared to 59 percent last year. Yields are down from last year because of hot and dry weather during the summer months.

In 2005, Montana producers seeded 950 thousand acres of **barley**, 50,000 acres fewer than the 2004 acreage of 1.0 million acres. This is the lowest acreage seeded since 1953, when 582 thousand acres were seeded. Producers harvested 710,000 acres, 120,000 fewer than the 2004 harvested acreage of 830,000. The final yield for 2005 averaged 56.0 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year, and down 4 bushels from the August forecast. Production was estimated at 39.8 million bushels, 8 percent below last year.

**Oat** production in Montana was estimated at 1.7 million bushels, down 27 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 85,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2004. Harvested acreage was set at 33,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from last year. Average yield at 53.0 bushels per acre, was 7 bushels below 2004, but unchanged from the previous forecast.

U.S. **all wheat** production totaled 2.10 billion bushels in 2005, down 3 percent from the last forecast and 3 percent below 2004. Grain area is 50.0 million acres, down fractionally from last year. The U.S. yield is 42.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel below the August forecast and down 1.2 bushels from a year ago. The 2005 **winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.49 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the August forecast and down slightly from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.4 bushels per acre, unchanged from August but 0.9 bushel above last year's final yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 33.7 million acres, 2 percent below the last forecast and down 3 percent from the previous year.

**Other spring wheat** production for 2005 in the United States is estimated at 504 million bushels, up 9 percent from the last forecast but down 11 percent from last year. Harvested area is 13.6 million acres, up 28,000 acres from August and up 3 percent from 2004. The U.S. yield is 37.1 bushels per acre, 3.5 bushels below the August forecast and down 6.1 bushels from the record high yield in 2004.

U.S. **durum wheat** production for 2005 totaled 100 million bushels, up 8 percent from August 1 and 11 percent above last year. Grain area harvested totaled 2.70 million acres, up 10 percent from August and up 14 percent from 2004. The U.S. yield is estimated at 37.2 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from the last forecast and 0.8 bushel below 2004. Production is down in all States except North Dakota. In North Dakota, yields are higher than last year due to favorable weather conditions throughout the growing season.

**Barley** production in the U.S. is estimated at 212 million bushels, down 10 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 24 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 64.8 bushels, is down 3.4 bushels from the previous forecast and 4.8 bushels below 2004. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.28 million acres, down 6 percent from August and 19 percent below a year ago. Area harvested for grain is the lowest since 1890, while production is the lowest since 1936. Area planted, area harvested, and production are down from last year in the 13 largest-producing States. However, the U.S. yield is the second highest on record and the yield for Colorado and Maryland were record highs.

U.S. **oat** production is estimated at 115 million bushels, 10 percent below the August 1 forecast and 1 percent below last year's 116 million bushels. The estimated yield is 63.1 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from August and also down 1.6 bushels from a year ago. Harvested area is 1.82 million acres, 8 percent below the August 1 forecast but 2 percent above last year. (see table on next page)

### September 1, 2005 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on September 1, 2005 were 200.2 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago due to a 10 percent increase in all wheat production. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 173.0 million bushels, up 4 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted to 27.2 million bushels, up 37 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the June - August 2005 quarter was up 47 percent from the same quarter last year to 40.8 million bushels, compared with 27.8 million a year ago. (continued on back page)

**September 1, 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.**

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,100	1,630	2,050	41.0	45.0	66,830	92,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	565	33.0	28.0	17,985	15,820
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,550	31.0	32.0	88,350	81,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,270	5,025	5,165	34.5	36.7	173,165	189,670
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	65.0	15.0	16.0	143	5/	2,145	5/
Oats	Bu.	105	85	40.0	33.0	60.0	53.0	2,400	1,749
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	710	59.0	56.0	48,970	39,760
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	5/	342	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	17.0	12.7	16.5	22.4	24.0	285	396
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	135.0	63.0	125.0	20.1	5/	1,266	5/
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	170.0	72.0	155.0	14.0	5/	1,008	5/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	12.0	19.0	8.0	13.0	9.0	5/	72	5/
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	50.0	21.7	20.7	1,131	1,035
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335.0	4/	3,551	4/
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	23.0	15.0	22	1,590	3/	23,850	3/
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	5/	21,080	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	2.50	3,220	4,250
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	1.60	1,540	2,000
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	2.12	4,760	6,250
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	40,320	34,462	33,680	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,493,769
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,735	2,363	2,691	38.0	37.2	89,893	100,045
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,036	13,174	13,609	43.2	37.1	568,918	504,456
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	57,091	49,999	49,980	43.2	42.0	2,158,245	2,098,270
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,592	73,632	74,368	148.9	5/	10,923,099	5/
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,240	1,787	1,823	64.7	63.1	115,695	115,002
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,922	4,021	3,276	69.6	64.8	279,743	212,196
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	20.3	5/	10,471	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,668.8	1,219.3	1,530.8	14.6	16.9	17,799	25,829
Dry Peas	Cwt.	530.0	804.0	507.8	772.0	21.6	5/	10,831	5/
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	450.0	322.0	430.0	12.7	5/	4,084	5/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	30.5	37.5	21.5	26.5	12.7	5/	272	5/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,247.8	22.9	21.3	29,956	26,639
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,039.7	970.4	1,022.8	955.7	398	4/	410,023	4/
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,092	828	1,067	1,618	3/	1,339,530	3/
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	5/	175,765	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.34	75,383	73,849
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.92	82,391	76,068
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.43	157,774	149,917

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available October 12, 2005. 4/ Forecast available November 11, 2005.

5/ Forecast available January 12, 2006. -- Not published.

**September 1 Grain Stocks**

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept.1, 2004	June 1, 2005	Sept. 1, 2005	'05/'04	Sept. 1, 2004	June 1, 2004*	Sept. 1, 2005
Thousand Bushels		Percent		Thousand Bushels			
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	166,000	40,000	173,000	104%	790,600	161,275	719,360
Off Farms 1/	19,780	11,330	27,180	137%	1,147,807	378,825	1,199,274
TOTAL	185,780	51,330	200,180	108%	1,938,407	540,100	1,918,634
DURUM WHEAT 2/, 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	65,600	24,100	70,200
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	25,508	13,494	29,235
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	91,108	37,594	99,435
BARLEY							
On Farms	42,000	9,000	37,000	88%	175,300	41,100	137,400
Off Farms 1/	7,290	5,780	9,310	128%	114,777	87,317	113,911
TOTAL	49,290	14,780	46,310	94%	290,077	128,417	251,311
OATS							
On Farms	2,500	800	2,000	80%	74,300	25,350	71,200
Off Farms 1/	50	65	120	240%	41,458	32,592	41,843
TOTAL	2,550	865	2,120	83%	115,758	57,942	113,043
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	438,000	2,462,300	820,500
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	520,091	1,857,482	1,291,734
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	958,091	4,319,782	2,112,234

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not published in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

\* Revised.

## August 2005 Prices Received

August full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with July 2005. Montana's winter wheat price was \$2.99 per bushel, down \$0.22 from the previous month and down \$0.31 from the previous year; spring wheat dropped \$0.16 to \$3.27 per bushel and was \$0.16 lower than August 2004; and durum wheat price decreased \$0.15 to \$3.38 per bushel and was \$0.54 lower than the previous year. Feed barley prices decreased \$0.07 from July 2005 and \$0.20 from August 2004 to \$1.47 per bushel. Malt barley prices were \$3.27 per bushel, unchanged from last month, but \$0.13 lower than August 2004.

The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was up \$9.00 from August 2005 to \$85.00 per ton, and all other hay increased \$2.00 from August to \$70.00 per ton. The mid-September grain prices were mixed with winter wheat at \$3.30 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.79; durum wheat was \$3.27; feed barley was \$1.56; and malt barley was \$3.07.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were mostly higher compared to July 2005. Steer and heifer prices rose

\$4.00 from July to \$106.00 per cwt. but were \$2.00 per cwt lower than August 2004. Cows dropped from July, falling \$3.80 per cwt to \$52.40 and was \$6.40 per cwt below a year ago. Calf prices jumped \$7.00 per cwt to \$136.00, but dropped \$3.00 from July 2004.

Meanwhile, sheep and lamb producers saw mixed prices for August. Sheep prices jumped \$5.90 from July, but dropped \$1.60 from August 2004 to \$41.60 per cwt, but lamb prices, at \$121.00 per cwt, fell \$5.00 from July, but were \$12.00 per cwt higher than a year ago. The all milk price for August was \$15.30 per cwt., increasing \$1.10 from July, but \$1.90 lower than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices for mid-month September were \$106.00 per cwt; cows were \$53.10 per cwt; and calves reached a record high \$143.00 per cwt. The mid-month September all milk price was \$16.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for August and changes from July were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.16, up \$0.01 from July and down \$0.03 from August 2004; spring wheat was \$3.43, down \$0.02 from July, but up \$0.05 from a year ago; durum

wheat was \$3.39, down \$0.32 from July and down \$0.47 from August 2004; the all barley price was \$2.52, up \$0.14 from July, but down \$0.25 from August 2004; steer and heifer prices were \$87.80, down \$0.60 per cwt. from July and \$3.20 below August 2004; calves were 131.00 per cwt, \$1.00 below July, but unchanged from a year ago; sheep were \$42.30 per cwt, up \$2.00 from July and \$5.00 above August 2004; and lambs were 108.00 per cwt, down \$1.00 from July, but up \$10.10 from August 2004.

The U.S. mid-September prices are as follows: winter wheat, \$3.23 per bushel; spring wheat, \$3.51 per bushel; durum wheat, \$3.34 per bushel; all wheat, \$3.34 per bushel; malt barley, \$2.91 per bushel; feed barley, \$1.89 per bushel; and all barley, \$2.60 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were \$91.30 per cwt; cows, \$50.40 per cwt; calves, \$133.00 per cwt; all hogs, \$48.80 per cwt; and all egg prices, \$0.643 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in September, at 116, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from August.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	August 2004	September 2004	August 2005	September 2005
Prices Received	120	116	117	116
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	135	135	141	142
Ratio 2/	89	86	83	82

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	U N I T	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		August 2004	July 2005	August 2005	August 2005	July 2005	August 2004	Sept. 15, 2005	Sept. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.30	3.21	2.99	3.16	-0.22	-0.31	3.30	3.23
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.92	3.53	3.38	3.39	-0.15	-0.54	3.27	3.34
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.43	3.43	3.27	3.43	-0.16	-0.16	3.79	3.51
All Wheat	Bu.	3.45	3.38	3.15	3.24	-0.23	-0.30	3.49	3.34
Barley, All	Bu.	3.11	2.97	3.04	2.52	+0.07	-0.07	2.87	2.60
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.67	1.54	1.47	1.79	-0.07	-0.20	1.56	1.89
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.40	3.27	3.27	2.88	nc	-0.13	3.07	2.91
Oats	Bu.	1.56	n/a	n/a	1.47	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.54
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	77.00	75.00	76.00	109.00	+1.00	-1.00	85.00	107.00
All Other Hay	Ton	74.00	67.00	68.00	74.80	+1.00	-6.00	70.00	74.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	76.00	74.00	74.00	99.70	nc	-2.00	82.00	99.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	108.00	102.00	106.00	87.80	+4.00	-2.00	106.00	91.30
Cows	Cwt	58.80	56.20	52.40	51.30	-3.80	-6.40	53.10	50.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	97.20	74.10	91.00	84.50	+16.90	-6.20	96.50	87.50
Calves	Cwt	139.00	129.00	136.00	131.00	+7.00	-3.00	143.00	133.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	43.20	35.70	41.60	42.30	+5.90	-1.60	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	109.00	126.00	121.00	108.00	-5.00	+12.00	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	17.20	14.20	15.30	14.80	+1.10	-1.90	16.10	15.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, & cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep & lambs discontinued. NC - No change N/A Not available.

## September 1, 2005 Grain Stocks (continued from front page)

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2005 were 46.3 million bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farms was 37.0 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year.

Off-farm storage of barley was up 28 percent from a year ago to 9.3 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were 2.1 million bushels, down 17 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 2.0 million bushels, down 20 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm was up 70,000 bushels from last year to 120,000 bushels.

In the United States, all wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 2005 totaled 1.92 billion bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 719 million bushels, down 9 percent from the previous year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.20 billion bushels, are up 4 percent from a year ago. The June - August 2005 indicated disappearance is 720 million bushels, down 6 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions in the U.S. on September 1, 2005 totaled 99.4 million bushels, up 9 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 70.2 million bushels, are up 7 percent from September 1, 2004. Off-farm stocks totaled 29.2 million bushels, up 15 percent from a year ago. The June - August 2005

indicated disappearance of 38.2 million bushels is up 52 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2005 totaled 251 million bushels, down 13 percent from September 1, 2004. On-farm stocks are estimated at 137 million bushels, 22 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 114 million bushels, are 1 percent below September 2004. The June-August 2005 indicated disappearance is 89.3 million bushels, 19 percent below the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions in the U.S. on September 1, 2005 totaled 113 million bushels, 2 percent below the stocks on September 1, 2004. Of the total stocks on hand, 71.2 million bushels are stored on farms, 4 percent lower than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 41.8 million bushels, 1 percent above the previous year. Indicated disappearance for June - August 2005 totaled 59.9 million bushels, compared with 64.8 million bushels during the same period a year ago.

### U.S. Hog Inventory Up Slightly

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2005 was 61.5 million head. This was up slightly from September 1, 2004, and up 1 percent from June 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million

head, was up less than 1 percent from last year but down less than 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.6 million head, was virtually unchanged from last year but up 2 percent from last quarter.

The June - August 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.3 million head, was up slightly from 2004 and up 1 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, down slightly from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.07 for the June-August 2005 period, compared to 9.01 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.89 million sows farrow during the September - November 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004, but up 1 percent from 2003. Intended farrowings for December 2005-February 2006, at 2.88 million sows, are up 1 percent from both 2005 and 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

### COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat Supply & Demand	Red Meat Production
Milk Production	
Cash Receipts County	
Estimates	
Potato Disposition	
Cattle on Feed	
Egg Production	

Peggy Stringer, Director  
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